

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2 The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figures 1-4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claim 1 is now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

Applicant has attached revised drawings for the Examiner's approval. In the "Replacement Sheet"

Specifically, 'joining zone 15' which was disclosed in the original specification (Paragraph 24, Line 4) and the original drawings has been more clearly identified in the Amended drawings attached herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As disclosed in the original specification of the present application, (Paragraph 0024, line 3) and shown in figures 1 and 2, the element enumerated 12 is representative of either a mounting bracket or a vehicle itself. The means of attaching the accessory directly to a vehicle in this application is identical to the means of attaching the

accessory to an intermediate bracket which in turn would be attached to the vehicle, either in a similar means or any other means as originally claimed and disclosed. Applicant respectfully acknowledges the language of the claims as originally submitted may not have been absolutely clear with regard to the elected species and has amended the claims herein to more particularly point out that which Applicant regards as his invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner to reconsider this rejection. Furthermore, Applicant would like to reiterate that the above amendments contain no new matter outside that which was originally disclosed in the specification and drawings.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Castro (U.S. Pat. No. 6,158,793). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant acknowledges the '793 patent to Castro is relevant art in that it teaches of an accessory joining bracket utilized to attach a vehicle accessory to a vehicle, but Applicant respectfully disagrees that Castro '793 teaches, anticipates, nor renders obvious, Applicants means of attaching an accessory to a mounting bracket.

Specifically, Applicants invention teaches of utilizing datum locators, electronic sensors for precisely aligning the vehicle accessory to the mounting bracket. Castro does not teach nor anticipate this method of attachment. Additionally, Castro fails to teach, anticipate nor render obvious the forming means of attaching the accessory to the mounting bracket as utilized in the present invention for permanently attaching the accessory to the vehicle.

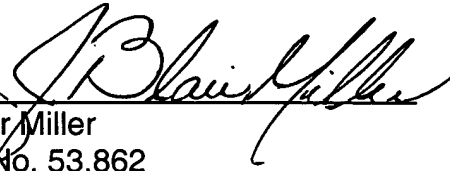
In light of the amendments to the claims and specification contained herein in view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully request Examiner to withdraw this rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. §112(b).

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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